

Message

From: Honker, William [honker.william@epa.gov]
Sent: 10/7/2014 2:01:24 PM
To: Gray, David [gray.david@epa.gov]; Luthans, William [luthans.william@epa.gov]
CC: Garcia, David [Garcia.David@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: Region 9 press release for border funding event Tues
Attachments: Border Grants Press Release 10-6-14 R9 FINAL.docx

FYI

Bill

William K. Honker, P.E.
Director, Water Quality Protection Division (6WQ)
EPA Region 6
Dallas, TX
214-665-3187

From: Jones, Curry
Sent: Tuesday, October 07, 2014 8:51 AM
To: Honker, William; Garcia, David; Rincon, Carlos; Tellez, Gilbert; Taheri, Diane
Subject: FW: Region 9 press release for border funding event Tues

Curry Jones, MPH
Chief, State and Tribal Section (6WQ-AT)
US Environmental Protection Agency - Region 6
Phone: (214)665-6793
Fax: (214)665-2191
Email: jones.curry@epa.gov

From: Skadowski, Suzanne
Sent: Monday, October 06, 2014 5:18 PM
To: Durant, Jennah; Jones, Curry; Hubbard, Joseph
Subject: RE: Region 9 press release for border funding event Tues

Hi Jennah,

Attached and below is the final PR we'll send on Tues around 12:00 pm PT. I'll cc you tomorrow shortly before it goes to media.

Thank you very much for the help and amplification!

Suzanne Skadowski
Public Affairs Specialist
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency | San Francisco
D: 415-972-3165 | **C:** 415-265-2863 | **E:** skadowski.suzanne@epa.gov



Release Date: October 7, 2014

Media Contact: Suzanne Skadowski, 415-972-3165, skadowski.suzanne@epa.gov

U.S. EPA announces funding to reduce water pollution, recycle e-waste, improve environmental health along U.S.– Mexico border

SAN DIEGO — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is awarding over \$8.6 million in grants to fund environmental improvement projects along the U.S.–Mexico border. The funds were announced today during a border tour led by EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy in San Diego.

“Water, waste and environmental health concerns cross national boundaries, and environmental solutions benefit communities on both sides of our shared border,” said EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy. “Border environment projects have already benefitted 8 million border residents, providing 63,000 homes with first-time drinking water service and 569,000 homes with first-time wastewater services.”

The EPA funds were awarded in partnership with the North American Development Bank and the Border Environment Cooperation Commission to advance commitments in the U.S.–Mexico environmental collaboration known as the Border 2020 Program. These grant awards are in addition to seven environmental improvement projects announced earlier this year along the California and Arizona U.S-Mexico border, which leveraged an additional \$425,500 from the recipient organizations.

Border 2020 is a bi-national collaborative effort with a mission to protect human health and the environment along the U.S.–Mexico border. The North American Development Bank and the Border Environment Cooperation Commission are international organizations established to preserve, protect, and finance environmental infrastructure projects in the U.S.–Mexico border region. To date, EPA has invested \$597 million in border environmental programs.

Today’s announcement includes:

- **Border Environment Infrastructure Fund**

EPA is providing \$5 million to the North American Development Bank for the Border Environment Infrastructure Fund, which funds the construction of drinking water and wastewater infrastructure along the U.S.–Mexico border. Projects along the California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas border regions will receive funding based on a selection process conducted by EPA with assistance from the Border Environment Cooperation Commission.

- **Border Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade**

The City of Holtville, Calif. will receive \$3.5 million from the Border Environment Infrastructure Fund to upgrade its wastewater treatment plant. The \$11 million project is jointly funded with a \$4 million California Clean Water State Revolving Fund grant and a \$3.5 million loan. The project will reduce ammonia pollution discharges to the Salton Sea.

- **New River Cleanup and Education Campaign**

In partnership with Mexican federal, state, and local agencies, the Sonoran Institute, headquartered in Tucson, Ariz., will use \$65,000 in EPA Border 2020 funds to clean and restore a segment of the New River in Mexicali, Baja Calif. and launch community environmental education and capacity building efforts to prevent future illegal dumping and degradation in the river that flows north into California.

- **Electronic Waste Management**

Fundación Hélice, a non-profit environmental organization, will use \$52,500 in EPA Border 2020 funds to address the growing need to manage discarded electronics (e-waste) in an environmentally protective manner. The project will build capacity to collect and recycle e-waste, using internationally recognized best management practices, and divert these materials from landfills and dumps in Mexicali, Baja Calif., potentially affecting the New River watershed. Similar projects are being implemented in the Arizona-Sonora border region.

- **Border Environmental Health Assessment**

The California Department of Public Health will use \$49,180 in EPA Border 2020 funds to collect and analyze important health data to determine environmental health disparities and priority needs along the U.S.–Mexico border. The project will include a plan of action to replicate this effort in other parts of the border area and help target future environmental health efforts.

During her visit to San Diego today, Administrator McCarthy presented EPA SmartWay Excellence Awards to freight carriers in California and Arizona at the American Trucking Association's Annual Management Conference. Administrator McCarthy also met with San Diego State University Sage Project students and National City officials working on sustainability issues in their community.

For more information on Border 2020, visit: www.epa.gov/border2020

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From: Durant, Jennah
Sent: Friday, October 03, 2014 2:00 PM
To: Skadowski, Suzanne; Eberhardt, Doug
Cc: Jones, Curry; Hubbard, Joseph
Subject: Press release for Border event

Hi Suzanne and Doug,

We are good to go with this press release. Please let me know if you'd like us to amplify to our Texas and New Mexico border markets.

Jennah Durant
US EPA Region 6
Press Office
214 665-2200 (main)
214 665-2287 (direct)